



# DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## HEADQUARTERS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
Hon. Norbert Mao Esq.,

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

The President General,

Hon Norbert Mao

### **RE: NOTICE OF RESIGNATION**

I greet you in the name of the almighty God and thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve in your office for the last two and a half years. However, I wish to draw your attention to the following pertinent issues with in the Democratic Party:

#### **1. DP/NRM Cooperation Agreement**

As you are aware, you signed a cooperation agreement with the NRM on behalf of DP in 2022. This culminated from the National Executive Committee Meeting that was held at Esella Country Hotel in Najjeera in October 2021. I am very privileged that you appointed me to be your Personal Assistant/Secretary, which requires me to be your secretary and take minutes of sensitive party organ meetings. It's not something I would take lightly and common sense dictates that I don't break that trust by throwing around secrets of such meetings, even when am leaving. Even though this is an internal confidential letter I will not divulge into a lot of sensitive matters. However apart from being your Personal Secretary, I am also a member of National Council, the Party's highest decision making organ after the Delegates' Conference. In that capacity therefore, I wish to remind you that you did not consult any party organ prior to signing of the cooperation agreement. The National Council you are supposed to consult before committing the party to such destructive deals, in the last 10 years only sat once in 2020 and under a Court order, against your wish. I have been severally attacked by your own National Executive Committee (NEC) members accusing me of having conspired with you my boss to alter minutes of the Esella NEC meeting where you claim to have got permission from them to sign the cooperation agreement, since I was the one who took minutes of that meeting. These attacks have had a big toll on my personal conscience. However, during the said meeting a consultant was hired to lead

the party in strategic planning and repositioning. In the course of the meeting, he told NEC members to form 7 discussion groups and each group was supposed to come up with strategies of how DP can take power. One of the NEC members in discussion Group Five came up with an idea of DP sharing power with those who have it and he presented this idea during their group presentation, in your presence. The member did not go into details of how this can be executed, and other members left it at that. It was not discussed. Later, NEC members were shocked that you took it as a blank cheque to cooperate with NRM. This has been of great concern to me because that same member who brought the idea physically attacked me to show him the raw minutes where he is on record seconding you to commit DP into a marriage with NRM (in prime Minister Hon Robinah Nabbanja's voice). By the way, I forwarded those minutes to the secretariat for approval but surprisingly, they have since been expunged off the party records. You cannot find them anywhere. I am the only one with the raw, un edited hand written minutes of the Esella NEC meeting although I treat the same as a confidential party document.

**2. Psychological torture and mental fatigue**

Mr. President, your cooperation agreement has had adverse mental health effects on many of us who are close to you. Apart from taking us by surprise, we have had harsh reactions from DP members and the public. Because you do not care, you have never taken concern to know how your executives and staff are doing psychologically even when you see visible signs. Take for example the case of the National Party Spokesperson, Mr. Opio Okoler. Mr. Opio was so psychologically fatigued after the signing of the agreement especially when you forced him to speak and defend things against his conscience, or in simple terms things that he did not believe in. This was similar to all of us because you were forcing us to come out and defend your personal actions everywhere on social media, against a barrage of countless insults. Imagine defending things that you have no idea about! I spoke to some colleagues who are more close to you but were equally devastated. What was most important to you was your personal security and indeed the state provided you with a battalion of mean looking soldiers. Meanwhile, you did not care to know how your foot soldiers were doing mentally and security wise, yet you were sending us to face a hostile public! For those reasons, the Party Spokesperson Mr. Opio Okoler could not take it anymore and decided to run out of the country (in self-exile) for his own

security and freedom of conscience. Those of us who stayed have gone through hell defending what is not defensible. The Deputy Spokesperson, my good friend Hon. Ritah Daisy Nakyanzi was wiser and more prepared than any of us. With your special assistance and connections, Ritah joined the Special Forces Command (SFC) an elite force that is charged with guarding dictator Museveni, the same person we want to remove from power. Having been closer to you than many of us, Ritah probably knew a lot of what was coming a head and would casually hint on the same using crypted language. By the way, what Ritah did is a kin to a young girl whose poor father stops her from eating chicken at a rich neighbors' house. Later, the poor girl gets disappointed when she finds out that her father tip toes in the dead of the night to the rich neighbors' compound to eat left overs. Frustrated, the poor girl decides to take full shelter and adoption at the rich man's house. The father knowing that she knows his secret movements, decides to talk to the rich neighbor and reach a deal to fully take in the girl. I wish her all the best in her endeavors!

3. **“Bedroom” recruitment of members and grassroots structures**

Mr. President, the shift in the DP recruitment policy and leadership structural renewal especially in the Central region has left me speechless as a member of National Council. For instance, the recent restructuring of Kampala Region/District under the guise of interim leaderships where only those who supposedly support your leadership and the cooperation agreement, or those without interest in elective politics (opportunists) were appointed into the party structures through secret meetings. This mode of operation is likely to be replicated throughout most parts of the Central region, which you perceive as hostile to your leadership and yet it's the DP's stronghold. The idea is to completely kick out those opposed to your leadership from the party structures. Although I have not yet been told, I know I am supposed to prepare for a similar “bedroom” recruitment in my area, Kayunga district and to ensure that I only recruit those not hostile to you, and who are likely to vote you and your leadership back into office during the next delegates conference. The only problem is that ever since you signed the cooperation Agreement, you lost all support on ground and I was your only known remaining supporter throughout Kayunga District. So practically, it's a hard task to execute.

But also, imagining that a Minister of Justice would instruct and support unjust processes (bordering to illegalities) and which undermine the very

basic principles of democracy and constitutionalism to which you are supposed to be the custodian is something that keeps me awake through the night.

#### **4. DP/NRM Joint Secretariat**

Mr. President, after signing the Cooperation agreement, we were notified that one of the clauses in there is the joint DP/NRM Secretariat. Indeed, we as staff were told to prepare for a possible shift from the DP offices to the NRM Joint Secretariat.

Mr. President, NRM is known to overtly and covertly spy on its opponents, and one time around 2010 was accused of installing recording devices in the ceiling of the DP offices at City House. Is it really possible to plan activities to remove this government from their own offices for which they pay rent, and when our staff is on their pay roll? If they can go an extra mile to spy on us when we are far from them, what about if we are operating from the same office?

Mr. President, one of the most active offices in DP is that of the Youth league. At the DP offices, we indeed meet hundreds of tired, determined youths who want to overthrow this government using any means possible. Young people have come up with weird ideas from giving them guns, burning tyres in the city, attacking government officials and so on. We have had to speak and tone them down calmly. These innocent young boys will still carry those weird ideas to us in the joint secretariat, not knowing that we are sharing offices with the people they want to remove from power. NRM is known to use an iron fist against young people who are determined to overthrow it, and many supporters of the National Unity platform are still languishing in prisons for having been suspected of carrying a similar mindset even when they did not execute it. Others were kidnapped by drones in broad day light never to be seen again. Are you really this merciless to throw our naive young people into the hands of a ruthless dictator? Would I be wrong to imagine that may be it could be part of your plan to lure genuine opposition supporters into the NRM hands so that they can be tortured or even killed by the regime?

Secondly, this arrangement means that the DP Secretary General will also be sharing premises with the NRM Secretary General (could even share the same office). There is a saying that “he who pays the piper calls the tune”. So in a situation where the party has to endorse parliamentary candidates, NRM will practically have a say on who contests on DP ticket and who

doesn't. Do you really think NRM will allow a "hostile" candidate, determined to seriously challenge them be given a DP ticket? Deep inside you, you are well aware that you will only give the ticket to jokers and know very well that you risk having no single MP in the next parliament on DP ticket. (Probably this is what NRM wants). For this reason, you are advocating for the change of the formula of allocation of government funds to political parties from the number of MPs each party has to regional office presence because DP is a National party with ability to establish offices anywhere in the country. This means that even if DP has no single MP in the next parliament, it will still be receiving billions of shillings from the electoral commission. As long as the party gets enough funds to continue masquerading as an opposition party, that is enough for you! I casually discussed the idea of sitting at a joint secretariat with the party's National Administrator my colleague Ssenyimba Rogers who deeply contemplated on this and concluded he could not handle (leave alone the poor payment). Fearing a confrontation with you, he too like Mr. Okoler ran out of the country to do odd jobs on kyeyo and even abandoned his law course at MUK. Without finding out why he abandoned the job, I was rushly appointed to replace him as an Acting Administrator a position I vehemently refused to take up. Mr. President, I will not sit in NRM offices to do DP work! That is living a life of deception and double standards! If I had wanted to join NRM, I would voluntarily take myself to Kyaddondo and negotiate my own terms like you did, rather than being dragged like a blind sheep!

**5. Chest thumping and Undermining legitimate concerns of Party members**

Mr. President ever since the signing of the Cooperation Agreement you have been chest thumping, boasting and undermining the legitimate concerns of DP members for committing their party without consulting them. You have always labelled such people as insignificant and very weak to remove you from power especially that you are even heavily guarded by SFC. You do not mind what they think or say at all. You are very powerful, un reachable and no longer consultative. Mr. President, it's wrong to assume that ordinary party members (who put you in power) are such powerless. Historically, weak people have stood up against more powerful autocrats than you and when they did, their actions were so loud that they left the whole world in bewilderment.

Take for example the case of King Louis the 16<sup>th</sup> of France. Louis was a powerful despot who married a foreigner, Queen Marie Antoinette who was not accustomed to French traditions so well. Marie Antoinette was such a crafty woman who led to the tragic end of the well established French Monarchy. By the way, the role of women in building or destroying world's powerful men cannot be underestimated. Marie Antoinette was a very extravagant woman but was most especially hated by Frenchmen for misadvising the King to take irrational decisions such as engaging in lavish weddings and pompous expensive birthday parties when France was sinking in a deep economic and political crisis. She inherited a traditional system where queens were very extravagant, and it's not true that she was the most extravagant French queen although she was determined to pay "a leg and hand" if she wanted anything, even if it meant tearing the Monarchy apart for her to live in luxury. She was mostly hated for her childish and selfish advice to the king. French men hated her so much that they even accused her of saying things that she never did, like the famous "if you can't afford bread go and buy cakes". In reality, she never said those words and was generally a very kind woman with a generous heart. They were attributed to her out of hatred for misleading the King.

When the Frenchmen rose up, King Louis and his wife attempted to escape out of France and were arrested at the border with Austria. They were charged of treason and found guilty. King Louis had his head cut off and pinned on a stick in the Centre of Paris City. The queen was also tried 8 months later and was sentenced to death by guillotine. A night before her execution, Marie Antonette was so stressed that her hair turned white over night, like that of a 90-year-old woman although she was only 37. The most interesting part was during her execution. Some historians claim that the notorious hangman, Charles Henry Sanson was a village drunkard who was particularly chosen to execute the royal family in order to humiliate them. While being led to the execution chambers, Marie Antoinette accidentally stepped on the shoes of the hangman. The queen was so terrified that she did not know how the hangman would react, even though he was to hang her anyway. The once powerful, extravagant, chest thumping queen in a very polite tone apologized to the hangman that "I am sorry Sir. I never intended to step on your shoes". This has since been recorded as the saddest statement in the history of mankind. Therefore Mr. President, it's not true that ordinary people cannot stand up against powerful autocrats. They may take long to do

so but once they do, their actions are so loud that they cannot be erased from history!

6. **Alleged contesting on NRM ticket in the forthcoming elections**

Mr. President during your grand homecoming event in Gulu last year, we had a privilege to spend a few days in Gulu City. However, there were rumors and talk all over the City that you are planning to Contest for MP Gulu East ( Laroo Pece) on NRM ticket in the next elections. This talk was too widely circulated among the electorates to be dismissed as decimal or hearsay. Is it true my boss, that you will hold an NRM ticket for MP in 2026? If this is true, then you will go on record as the first sitting DP President to be in Parliament on NRM ticket. I know it is illegal, but you have always reminded us that you are the Minister of Justice in whose docket the judiciary falls, whenever legal complexities arise. Even the Electoral Commission which is supposed to regulate activities of Political Parties falls under your docket and you are their line Minister. This explains their loud silence on the unfortunate happenings in DP. I bet my head if EC, as the regulator of Political Parties has ever seen or demanded to see an authentic (signed) copy of the Cooperation Agreement! All these are deliberate schemes by the dictatorial regime to stifle democracy and rule of law in the country.

God forbid If such a scenario happens (of you being in Parliament on NRM ticket), then shall we be in opposition? Will you be sitting in NRM caucus meetings and those of DP at the same time? To me, it looks like there is a seemingly well orchestrated scheme to destroy Uganda's oldest and most respected political party (DP), just like it happened in 1961 during the time of the Late Basil Bataringaya who was the highest ranking DP official and leader of opposition during the reign of Dr. Apollo Milton Obote.

Bataringaya, after a small disagreement with Ben Kiwanuka crossed to UPC along with 5 other Members of parliament, in a bid to weaken the Democratic Party. Obote appointed Bataringaya to the powerful ministry of Internal Affairs. He quickly earned trust of Obote and was one of his five most close and trusted ministers. Being in Obote's inner circle and as Minister of Internal Affairs he was in charge of enforcing draconian laws some of which saw the banning of political parties including DP! It was not by surprise that Obote even used Bataringaya to attempt and arrest Amin in a failed operation in 1971. Unsurprisingly, when Amin overthrew Obote in

1971 he used the same laws that Bataringaya had been enforcing as minister of internal affairs to throw him behind bars in Luzira and eventually murdered him, making him one of his very first political victims. Like Bataringaya, you risk being harshly judged by the future generations as a person who tried to destroy a party that built you, and I wouldn't wish to be part of that dirty history. Everybody should carry their own burden of guilt for which they are responsible!

Lastly Hon. Minister, last year in December you invited me to be your Political Assistant sitting in your office at the Ministry of Justice while still your Personal Assistant at the DP Headquarters. I really felt privileged for that golden opportunity because so many people, young and old, both NRM and opposition reach out to you asking for job opportunities on a daily basis. These may include even your blood relatives. To ignore them all and give me that prestigious opportunity is not something I can take for granted. I am really thankful for the opportunity. However, I felt it not proper to be commuting between the DP and government offices. I feel that at the Ministry you are executing sensitive and sometimes extremely confidential government affairs that would give me a conflict of interest as some one who does not like the NRM government, unless I had taken a decision to join them out of my conscience. This divided loyalty would effectively mean that I had to be an operative for one of the two entities but most likely the state. I was not ready to be a state operative. I sincerely don't know how you do it. Therefore, I rejected that appointment although I feared to communicate to you directly and gave flimsy excuses. By the way I don't even know where your Ministerial office is located! I take shelter in Mathew 5:3 "Happy are the poor in spirit: for the Kingdom of heaven is theirs. Happy are those who are sad: for they will be comforted. Happy are those who are gentle: for the earth will be their heritage".

Finally Mr. President due to the reasons stated above, in order to protect my mental health and for the good of my DP party and the country at large, I hereby **RESIGN** from being your Personal Assistant at the DP Headquarters, with immediate effect. I want to set an example for my generation and those to come that in civilized societies, people resign whenever things get messed up in a way that they cannot have them fixed. Unlike your generation which prides in chest thumping, ours



should be one that gets ashamed of wrong doing and be held accountable for our actions.

I am very grateful for the opportunity given to me to serve in your office for the last two and a half years. I will miss your mentorship and parental guidance. Away from committing our party to NRM without consulting us, you are one of the best bosses and mentors any young person would wish to work with and I thank you for giving me the opportunity. Being grateful is an under statement!

I will hand over any official documents and properties in my possession to the Party Accountant. Incase I forget any, I am always available to present the same.

I wish you the best in your endeavors.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Waddimba Anthony', is shown on a light purple rectangular background.

Waddimba Anthony

Personal Assistant to the President